# THE UNVEILING OF THE LINCOLN BUST AT HINGHAM, ENGLAND

*(As reported October 16, 1919, in the "Eastern Daily Press," of Norwich, England)*

"THE American ambassador, Mr. John Davis, visited Hingham yesterday, and was the leading participant in a well-organized ceremonial rendered to the honor of Abraham Lincoln. A band of patriotic Americans in the United States, including members of the Lincoln family, had combined to erect in the parish church a bronze bust of the famous Liberator President. Vigorous and appealing as a work of art, it occupies a niche on the north wall of the nave, and underneath is a stone bearing in white lettering the following inscription:

'In this parish for many generations lived the Lincolns, ancestors of the American Abraham Lincoln. To him, greatest of that lineage, many citizens of the United States have erected this memorial, in the hope that for all ages, between that land and this land and all lands, there shall be malice toward none with charity for all.'

"The ambassador, in company with Mrs. Davis arrived by motor-car at Hingham Rectory shortly before noon. They found themselves at once in an atmosphere of the most obvious rejoicing. The bells of the fine old church of the parish were pealing merrily. Bunting was freely displayed, with the Stars and Stripes prominent everywhere. The Boy Scouts and Girl Guides had been mobilized for guard-of-honor purposes. The school-children were out in procession, carrying hundreds of little flags, and motor-car parties were arriving from all ends of the country."

## THE AMBASSADOR'S TRIBUTE

HAVING unveiled the bust, which was done immediately after the singing of the hymn, "All people that on earth do dwell," the ambassador, speaking from a small dais erected for him in the north aisle, delivered an address. He said:

"'The whole earth is a sepulcher of famous men; and their story is not graven only on stone over their native earth, but lives on far away, without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives.' The stately words of the great Athenian echo down through the centuries. They come to us unbidden to-day, when we meet

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CANON A. C. W. UPCHER, OF HINGHAM CHURCH, AND AMBASSADOR JOHN W. DAVIS ON THEIR WAY TO THE UNVEILING OF THE LINCOLN BUST

to unveil the sculptured presentment of a great and famous man. His native earth lies far away across the seas and mountains, and his body is sepulchered in the valley of the Mississippi, at the capital of the State in whose citizenship he was enrolled; but the inspiration of his life and labors extends around the globe, and this is but one of the many monuments which testify to the universality of his influence. The features upon which we gaze are so well known that they would be recognized throughout the civilized world; but there is a local significance in this ceremony which must not be overlooked. It was from this village that his progenitors set out almost three hundred years ago, to taste the great adventure of the New World, and to join with those bold and hardy pioneers who were carving a new home out of the trans-Atlantic wilderness. Samuel Lincoln, the Norfolk weaver, left Hingham, according to tradition, in the year 1637; Abraham Lincoln, his remote descendant, returns to-day in this memorial. It would be quite useless, if indeed it were not impossible, to attempt to trace from the one man to the other those qualities which shone at last in such enduring splendor. Those who puzzle over the mysterious laws of heredity pursue a trackless path. But whether to an Englishman or to an American, there is cause for pride in the fact that this stock finally brought forth that rare and precious thing which men call genius.

"You will not expect me at this time to repeat the familiar story of Lincoln's career, unsurpassed in its contrasts of penury and power, of insignificance and fame, of utter failure and sweeping success, of final victory and swift martyrdom. The tale of the boy born in the remote cabin who grew to be the leader of his people and the peer of kings; of the illiterate frontiersman who became one of the greatest masters that the English tongue has known; of the village lawyer whom history acclaims as the savior of the Union and the emancipator of the slaves, has filled countless volumes and been the theme of tongues more eloquent than mine. In this place and to this audience I offer no apology for saying that it has never been better told than by an Englishman, Lord Charnwood; and that no summary of this character is more complete and accurate than that of another Englishman, John Bright. Three days after the news of Lincoln's death had stirred and shocked him, Bright wrote in his

journal: 'In him I have observed a singular resolution honestly to do his duty; a great courage—shown in the fact that in his speeches and writings no word of passion or of panic or of ill-will has ever escaped him; a great gentleness of temper and nobleness of soul, proved by the absence of irritation and menace under circumstances of the most desperate provocation; and a pity and mercifulness to his enemies which seemed drawn as from the very fount of Christian charity and love. His simplicity for a time did much to hide his greatness, but all good men everywhere will mourn for him, and history will place him high among the best and noblest of men.'

"Honesty, courage, gentleness, nobility, charity, and simplicity—these are, indeed, the qualities which made Lincoln what he was, and which explain in part, at least, his lasting hold upon the imagination and affection of mankind. During his stormy life, he was reviled as have been few men of women born—not excepting those who have preceded and followed him in his great, but tempestuous, office; but from the hour of his departure, history and the universal verdict of mankind have made John Bright's summary their own.

"And now, amid these sacred surroundings, we place this bust as a gift from America, as the likeness of one whose career we claim, not without pride, as typical of those things which make our country what it is. You receive it as the image of a great man of the Anglo-Saxon race, whose stock is rooted in this very soil, and in whom you have, with us, an equal ground for pride. But this monument would be out of place, even here in the home of his ancestors, if this were less truly a land where opportunity stretches out her hand to raise the humblest to the seats of might and power; where high and low, rich and poor, weak and strong, stand in equal right before an equal law; and where liberty counts and has counted her thousands and her tens of thousands ready to fight, and if need be to fall, in her defense. For those who come to look upon this figure will remember that their lot, no matter how lowly, can be no more humble than was his; and that no handicaps which fate has fastened upon them can be heavier than those which he overcame. They will recall the shackles which he struck from the bondsman's limbs, and will be reminded that in his day, as in ours, liberty and democracy proved their power as they earned their right to rule in the affairs of men; and so reminded, they will be ready, as was he, to struggle and to die in the cause of human freedom and equality.

"It is the service of monuments, however, not only to allure the memory, but to inspire the will. We erect the statues of the great not that we may admire, but that we may imitate them. If we will but listen, they speak to us with no faltering or uncertain tongue. Can we doubt what message it is that falls from these sculptured lips to-day? Cannot we hear on both sides of the Atlantic, above the Babel of contending cries, the shouts of victor and of vanquished, above the clash of national ambitions and strivings, and the turmoil of domestic unrest, the familiar and deathless words of the second inaugural: 'With malice toward none, with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and for his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.' "

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, HINGHAM, ENGLAND, WHERE FIVE GENERATIONS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S PURITAN ANCESTORS WERE BAPTIZED, MARRIED, AND BURIED